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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/031,941	05/13/2002	Klaus Bruchmann	BRU6144P0060US	8744

32116 7590 05/21/2003

WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER  
500 W. MADISON STREET  
SUITE 3800  
CHICAGO, IL 60661

EXAMINER
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FRIEDHOFFER, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2832

DATE MAILED: 05/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/031,941

Applicant(s)

BRUCHMANN, KLAUS

Examiner

Michael A. Friedhofer

Art Unit

2832

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 8. 6) ☐ Other:

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The drawings appear to have been misplaced, therefore, new copies of the figures must be sent.
2. The specification is objected to because the "List of Reference Symbols" page should be deleted.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

3. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, it is unclear and vague as to whether the blocking apparatus of line 5 and the blocking apparatus of line 8 are the same apparatus or are separate and distinct since they both interact with the switch.

In claim 1, line 9 "each fused switch unit" has no antecedent basis.

In claim 1, line 13 "each fused switch unit" and "the fused switch unit" have no antecedent basis.

In claim 1, line 14 "the associated fused link" has no antecedent basis.

In claim 1, line 15 it is unclear whether this blocking rod is the same as the one previously claimed or is a separate and distinct rod.

In claim 1, lines 15-16 "the associated interlocking element" has no antecedent basis.

In claim 1, line 16 "the associated fuse link" has no antecedent basis.

In claim 1, lines 16-17 "its switched-on position" has no antecedent basis.

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In claim 1, line 19 “each blocking rod” and “the associated opening” have no antecedent basis.

In claim 1, line 21 it is unclear whether this fuse link is the same as the one previously claimed or is a separate and distinct fuse link.

In claim 1, line 21 “it switched-off position” has no antecedent basis.

In claim 1, lines 21-22 “the associated blocking rod” has no antecedent basis.

In claim 1, lines 22-23 “the associated interlocking element” has no antecedent basis.

In claim 4, lines 1-2 it is unclear whether this fused switch unit is the same as the one previously claimed or is a separate and distinct switch unit.

In claim 4, line 2 “the fuse link” and “the fuse plug” have no antecedent basis.

In claim 7, line 2 “the form” has no antecedent basis.

In claim 8, line 3 “the fused switch unit” has no antecedent basis.

In claim 8, lines 3-4 “the fuse link” has no antecedent basis.

In claim 8, line 4 “the fuse plug” and “the switching rocker” have no antecedent basis.

In claim 8, line 4 “and/or” is an improper form of the alternative making the claim indefinite.

In claim 8, line 4 “are/is” is an improper form of the alternative making the claim indefinite.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

4. Claims 2-8 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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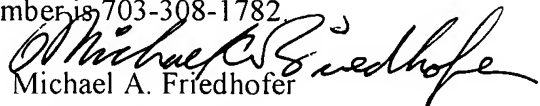
5. Claim 1 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Norden, Koslosky et al, Spencer, Smith et al, and Rohmer et al teach various interlocks between switches and fuse units.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael A. Friedhofer whose telephone number is 703-308-3304. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 6:00 - 2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on 703-308-7619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3432 for regular communications and 703-395-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1782.

  
Michael A. Friedhofer  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2832

Maf  
May 14, 2003